

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A method for staining cells in ~~a the~~ human or animal body, the method comprising applying to the cells in the body a physiologically compatible aqueous solution of a dye , said dye consisting essentially of brilliant blue R ~~which does not represent a vital dye and is biocompatible~~ .

18. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 17, further comprising ~~which is for~~ coloring, delimiting or separating membranes.

19. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 18, comprising ~~which is for~~ coloring, delimiting or separating membranes in the eye.

20. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 18, comprising ~~which is for coloring~~, delimiting or separating membranes which are to be removed from an organ of the body,

21. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the organ is the eye.

22. (currently amended) A method according to Claim ~~17~~ 16, further

comprising which is for coloring the lens capsule of the eye.

23. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 17 16, further comprising which is for coloring the lens anterior capsule in a cataract operation on the eye.

24. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 17 16, further comprising which is for coloring membranes which have occurred due to disease in or at an organ of the body.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the organ is the retina of the eye.

26. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 25, further comprising which is for coloring epiretinal membranes.

27. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising which is for coloring a viscoelastic solution used in surgery.

28. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the surgery is an ophthalmologic surgery.

29. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 17 16, wherein the dye is dissolved in a neutral or weakly acid or weakly alkaline buffer.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the dye is dissolved in a buffer with a pH value of between about 6.8 and 7.8.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30, wherein said buffer is a phosphate, hydrogen carbonate or citrate buffer ~~is used~~.

32. (cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the concentration of the dye in the buffer solution is between about 0.3 and 2.5 g/l.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 33, wherein the concentration of the dye is about 1.2 g/l.

35. (cancelled)

36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) A physiologically compatible aqueous dye solution for coloring cells in the human or animal body, the dye solution consisting essentially of brilliant blue R ~~comprising at least one dye which does not represent a vital dye and is biocompatible.~~

38. (cancelled)